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Southern Vancouver Island. By Charles H. Clapp. xiii and 208 pp. Map, ill., index. *Mem. No. 13, Geol. Surv. Branch, Dept. of Mines, Canada.* Ottawa, 1912.

This report deals principally with the general geology of the district, but begins with a description of the topography, and closes with fifty pages on economic geology. The description of the topography is especially good because it is based on modern explanatory rather than on old-fashioned empirical methods, and leaves the reader with a fairly clear mental picture of the essential elements of the landscape. One learns that southern Vancouver Island is a mountainous district of folded and faulted belts of resistant volcanics and non-resistant sediments trending northwest-southeast, which was reduced to a peneplain surmounted by considerable areas of monadnocks, then uplifted, maturely dissected, and later submaturely to maturely glaciated. In the central and southern parts of the region remnants of the peneplain surface determine an upland plain which is still an important element in the topography; but farther north and northwest the high monadnock areas give a more rugged scenery; while in the extreme southeast the peneplain surface was entirely destroyed by the removal of crystalline rocks which were evidently non-resistant.

Glacial overdeepening of the broad subsequent valleys and narrower transverse valleys was sufficiently extensive to form fairly good troughs which contain lakes, and to develop some fjords along the coast; but hanging valleys are said not to be prominent, and the irregularity of the shoreline is mainly attributed to coastal subsidence. A slight recent elevation is shown by a narrow coastal plain along the southwest coast, now extensively retrograded under wave attack.

A sketch map of physiographic provinces would have made clearer certain parts of the text. Photographic illustrations are sufficiently numerous and good.

D. W. JOHNSON.

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil in 1911. By J. C. Oakenfull. 3d Annual Edition. Feb., 1912. xii and 395 pp. Map, appendix and index.

A careful summary of a large variety of information about Brazil. The larger topics are Geography, pp. 1-9; Climate and Diseases, 10-20; Anthropology and Ethnography, 21-31; History, Population, Government, Finance and Transportation, 39-146; Natural History, 147-190; Agriculture, 191-216; Tropical Fruits, 217-237; The Pastoral Industry, 238-248; Geology and Mineralogy, 249-302; Thermal Springs and Tourist Resorts, 303-329; Literature, Art and Science, 330-336. The appendix is a gazetteer of the republic.

Chubut. Im Sattel durch Kordillere und Pampa Mittel-Patagoniens (Argentinien). Von Dr. W. Vallentin. 2. Auflage. 205 pp. Ills. Hermann Paetel, Berlin, 1912. 10 x 7.

Captain Vallentin is looking for good colonizing ground for Germans. In western Chubut he finds this as he did before in western Neuquen, and draws a vivid picture of the country. Dreary, arid wastes of little promise form the greater part of the province. Exceptions are the well-watered valleys among the Andes and three regions further east. Rio Senguerr in the south, the lands near Camarones on the coast where the deep gullies (cañadones) have water, and the flood-plain of the Chubut River, colonized by the Welsh since 1865. Floods are disastrous in this valley as in most of those in the west. Regulation works are possible in the Chubut valley with development of water power for an electric railroad. This is much needed, for the 300 miles of separation from the coast is the great handicap of the settlements in the Andine valleys, the most promising part of the land. They are producing grain, fruit, vegetables and cattle in abundance. With a market they could increase the output a hundred fold. Chile is much nearer than the Atlantic and Chileans figure largely among the settlers. The valleys are fertile and beautiful, the climate like Europe, but milder. The Argentine government

is slow to give title but in some places is granting one and a quarter square miles free to prospective citizens who will build a house and begin cultivation. With a railroad, prosperity will be immediate, and Captain Vallentin fears the *English* will build it. MARK JEFFERSON.

The Flowing Road. Adventuring on the Great Rivers of South America. By Caspar Whitney. 319 pp. Maps, ill., index. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1912. \$3. 9 x 6.

This book is a narrative of adventures on several rivers of South America, notably the Orinoco, with its tributaries, the Portuguesa, Apure and Casiquiare; the Rio Negro, of the Amazon system; and the Salado and Feliciano, of the Paraná system. Incidents of land trips in the llanos of Venezuela, forests of Brazil, and Argentine pampas, are also told briefly. There is a closing chapter on outfitting for jungle travel, which contains much sound advice.

The narrative deals chiefly with the interior of Venezuela, in the section where the Orinoco and Amazon tributaries interlock and are linked. The things told are the incidents of travel through a wild region, and the abundance of interesting items of natural history which the practical observer gathers in such a journey. Descriptions of the natives and their ways of living are perhaps the most valuable items among the many that are recorded. As a result, the reader is given a rather full idea of the conditions prevailing in the upper valleys of the Orinoco system. The pleasing style, for which the author is already well known, is found fully as effective here as in any of his other books. There are numerous good illustrations.

WALTER S. TOWER.

AFRICA

The Temple of Deudûr. Par Aylward M. Blackman. In series: Les Temples Immergés de la Nubie. Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte. 114 pp. Ills., indices. Imprimerie de l'Inst. Français d'Archéol. Orientale, Cairo, 1911. 348 piastres. 14 x 10.

This handsome volume, in which both the text and illustrations are by Mr. Blackman, is one of a special series brought out by the Department of Antiquities in Egypt. The studies comprised in that series are devoted to the description of temples a little south of Aswan which are threatened by the raising of the great dam. They are intended to be technical and exhaustive, so that even the more intelligent of winter tourists will scarcely care to attack them, but the professed Egyptologist will be grateful to the Government for the closeness and accuracy of its records.

Mr. Blackman is one of the younger Oxford Egyptologists, and had every reason to feel highly complimented when Sir Gaston Maspero selected him to execute this important work. He has performed his task with conscientiousness and care, and the volume is fully equal in quality to any of its predecessors. Of the 120 pages of photographic illustrations all come up to a relatively high standard, while many are conspicuously good. The hieroglyphic texts are well reproduced and the descriptive letterpress is skilfully interwoven with them. The printer has generally been kind, though the spelling "eface" and "sovrán" show that his mastery of English was imperfect; and his choice of type for numerals was genuinely unfortunate. The inconsistency between the spelling of "Dendûr" in the letterpress and "Dandour" on the plates should also have been avoided.

The author takes every scene in the temple and describes it minutely, according to a set schematic form. Every inscription is reproduced in the conventional hieroglyphic transcription, a difficult and laborious task which those who have attempted it will appreciate. It needs a very highly trained and experienced scholar to detect the original readings on a blurred and worn stone. Even a Lepsius has made many a blunder, and the copies of more than one famous philologist are almost useless, so that the whole value of such work as this depends upon the personal qualifications of the individual. The present reviewer, who has spent many a day with Mr. Blackman under